

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Biver. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Biver in view of Eschle. Claims 2 and 6-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 12-15 and 18-19 were allowed.

Applicants and applicants' attorney acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 4, 12-15 and 18-19 and the indication of allowability concerning dependent claims 2 and 6-8.

In accordance with this amendment, applicants have elected to accept the allowed and allowable subject matter in order to expedite issuance of the patent.

Allowable dependent claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1, thereby placing claim 2 in allowable form. Claim 1 has been canceled.

Rejected claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 4 stands allowed.

Rejected claim 5 has been canceled.

Allowable dependent claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 5, thereby placing claim 6 in allowable form. Claim 7 depends on claim 6 and is thus likewise allowable.

Allowable dependent claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1, thereby placing claim 8 in allowable form.

Rejected claims 9-11 have been canceled.

Claims 12-15 stand allowed.

Claims 16-17 were previously canceled.

Claims 18-19 stand allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, all of the rejected claims have been canceled, allowable dependent claims 2, 6 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form, allowable dependent claim 7 depends on allowable claim 6, and claims 4, 12-15 and 18-19 stand allowed. Thus only allowed and allowable claims remain pending in the application.

The claim amendments made herein do not raise a new issue that would require further search or consideration. To the contrary, the amendments, on their face, place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is believed warranted under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and entry of this amendment together with passage of the application to issue are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

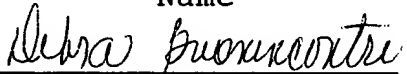
50 Broadway - 31st Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name



Signature

July 8, 2005

Date